

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A resin-coated metal sheet comprising a metal substrate and a thermoplastic resin layer formed on the surface of said metal substrate, wherein said thermoplastic resin layer comprises a polyester consisting ~~chiefly~~ essentially of a polyethylene terephthalate and an ethylene polymer, and contains a tocopherol or a derivative thereof in an amount of from 0.05 to 3% by weight.

2. (original): A resin-coated metal sheet according to claim 1, wherein said polyester and said ethylene polymer are contained at a weight ratio of from 95:5 to 50:50.

B 3. (previously presented): A resin-coated metal sheet according to claim 1, wherein said resin layer has a melt viscosity of from 2000 to 10,000 centipoises at a temperature of 260°C and at a shearing rate of 122 sec⁻¹, and the polyester in the resin layer has an inherent viscosity (IV) in a range of from 0.6 to 1.5.

4. (previously presented): A resin-coated metal sheet according to claim 1, wherein the ethylene polymer contains an ionomer resin.

5. (currently amended): A resin-coated metal sheet according to claim 4, wherein the ionomer resin in said resin layer ~~is existing~~ exists as a dispersion phase having an average particle diameter of not larger than 5 µm.

6. (original): A resin-coated metal sheet according to claim 4, wherein the ionomer resin in said resin layer contains zinc as a metal seed.

7. (previously presented): A resin-coated metal can obtained by molding a resin-coated metal sheet as claimed in claim 1 in such a manner that the coated layer becomes the inner surface of the can.

8. (previously presented): A resin-coated metal closure obtained by molding a resin-coated metal sheet as claimed in claim 1 in such a manner that the coated layer becomes the inner surface of the can closure.